

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 were pending prior to this amendment. Claims 4 and 8-13 have been objected to. Claims 1-4, 8-10, 12, and 13 have been amended. New claims 14-19 have been added, and Applicant requests that the Examiner enter the newly added claims for the reasons explained below. Applicant requests allowance of the present application as amended.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 8 and 13 were objected to.

Claims 4, 8, and 13 have been amended for clarification. Other clarifying amendments have been made to claims 1-3, 9, 10, and 12. Applicant asks the Examiner to enter all the amendments to the claims 1-4, 8-10, 12, and 13 because these amendments merely correct typographical errors or otherwise clarify the claimed subject matter.

New claims

Applicant requests the Examiner to enter new claims 14-19. Although Applicant acknowledges that it has no "right" to add new claims in an amendment after Ex parte Quayle action, the MPEP provides the Examiner the discretion to enter newly added claims that are patentable and that will not require further search. *See* MPEP 714.20, paragraph C. Here, the newly added claims 14-19 are patentable for at least similar reasons as the allowed claims 8-13, and thus should not require further search. Therefore, the Examiner has the discretion to enter the newly added claims 14-19, and accordingly, Applicant requests that the newly added claims 14-19 be entered.

Comments on the Examiner's reasons for allowance

Although the applicant's attorney agrees with the Examiner's conclusion that these claims are allowable, the applicant's attorney notes that the claims may be allowable for reasons other than those identified by the Examiner and does not concede that the Examiner's characterizations of the terms of the claims and the prior art are correct.

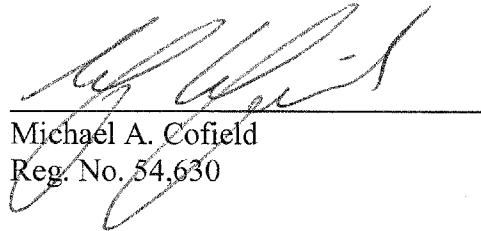
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the present application as amended is requested. The examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 224-2170 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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